There are many challenges in winning one World Series, let alone multiple World Series in a few short years. Obviously when a team wins the World Series they begin the next year with a target on their back, as everybody is going to try to beat the champions. The Yankees took their target with pride and accepted the challenge of being the hunted. The Yankees would of course win four World Series titles in five years.

One is the biggest challenges in being able to repeat as champions is Free Agency. With Free Agency when a player’s contract expires with his team, he can look for a new team to play for. Teams are able to then strengthen their team in order to be more competitive the next year. Free agency began in 1969 and since then only five teams have repeated as champions. These repeating champions were: The Oakland A’s 1972-1974, Cincinnati Reds 1975-1976, New York Yankees 1977-1978, the Toronto Blue Jays 1992-1993, and then of course the Yankees again from 1998-2000. Repeating as champions is hard enough, but these Yankees were able to win the World Series three times in a row. Put in their win in 1996 and the Yankees won four World Series in five years. To put that in perspective a team hadn’t done that since the 1949-1953 Yankees won five World Series in a row. As impressive of a stretch that those Yankees put together was, they didn’t have free agency to deal with. I’m not going to say it was easy to win a World Series back then, but it certainly wasn’t as challenging because teams for the most part stayed pretty much the same year in and year out.

The 1996 Yankees were the start of a dynasty in a whole new era. Players would switch teams almost regularly and teams would try to fill their biggest need with a new player. It was very rare to find players sticking with a team for their whole career. Free Agency made the competitive balance in baseball very fair, and yet the Yankees were still able to win a World Championship in 1996, 1998, 1999, and 2000.